Indicator	Weight(%)
Per capita energy consumption	22
Villages electrified	2
Railway route length per 1000 Sq Kms	8
Surface roads per 1000 sq kms	10.5
Unsurfaced roads per 1000 sq Kms	5
Port traffic	2.5
Irrigated area as per cent of cropped area	20
Post offices per lakh persons	3
Tele density per 100 persons	3
Primary schools per lakh persons	6
Hospital beds per lakh persons	3
Primary Health Centres (PHCs) per lakh persons	3
Bank branches per lakh persons	12

Study on ill-effects of WTO agreement

637. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ill-effects of WTO agreement on Indian agriculture and industry including traditional industries; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take in view of the ensuing meet of WTO in Mexico?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) India is a founder member of the WTO which came into being on 1.1.1995 as a successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1947 (GATT), of which also India was a founder member. WTO provides a predictable rule-based multilateral trading system, which protects the developing countries from the bilateral pressures of the developed trading partners. However, experience in implementation of WTO agreements has brought out a number of implementation-related issues which require satisfactory resolution.These

issues broadly relate to the inequities and imbalances in the WTO agreements, non-realisation of anticipated benefits and the non-operational and non-binding nature of most of the Special and Differential (S and D) provisions in favour of developing countries.These issues were highlighted by India through its proposals which were cosponsored by 11 other like-minded group of countries in the preparatory process leading to Seattle Ministerial Conference. After the Doha Ministerial Conference these issues have become an integral part of the WTO Work Programme. India's concerns in the case of WTO Agreement on Agriculture were also flagged in its negotiating proposals submitted to WTO. The Indian proposals aim at protecting its food and livelihood security and for creating opportunities for export of its agricultural surpluses while targeting the high tariffs and trade distorting domestic support and export subsidies of the developed countries.

As a follow up to the Doha Ministerial Declaration and the run up to the scheduled Ministerial Conference in Mexico in 2003, the Government have already undertaken wide ranging consultations with the State Governments and other stake holders for finalising its negotiating strategy.

Removal of TBT on import of steel

638. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a large section of industry has represented him for removal of Technical Barriers on Trade (TBT) imposed on the imports of Steel products *vide* DGFT Notification No. 44 since non-availability of the requisite grades of Steel has severely hit the industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Law to whom a reference was made by the Ministry of Commerce has also opined that the inclusion of Steel products in the DGFT Notification is no tenable since the conditions imposed on the Foreign Producers are not applicable to the Indian Producers; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Paragraph 2.2 of